

I am extremely concerned by the news that Sinclair Broadcasting's has taken action to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary only days before this year's presidential election. This decision is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and the repression of individuality and free speech.

The corporation is clearly biased toward the Republican candidate for president although Sinclair is obligated by law to serve the public interest in a fair and truthful and prejudice free manner. Although Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, it has an obvious vested interest in the results of this election and is one of media conglomerates who benefit from the bias of this administration toward rewarding and preserving the ultra rich of our country.

By allowing the Sinclair Broadcasting corporation to force all of its associates to replace regular shows with such obviously one dimensional and terribly slanted programs, agencies such as yours are allowing Sinclair and possibly others to control the airwaves with no regard for the basic premises of our democracy. When large companies and a powerful few control the news then the principles of free election and equal campaign time are put to risk.

In this kind of big money control of the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and much more substantive and truthful news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.